

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 – U.S. Capitol

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 – U.S. Capitol

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Chairman Shelby:

Thank you for your continued leadership as you work to compile omnibus appropriations legislation. We want to bring to your attention the important Conrad State 30 program, which is set to expire at the end of the year.

The Conrad State 30 program is a vital tool for addressing health disparities in medically underserved areas. Upon graduating, foreign students in U.S. medical schools are required to return to their native country for two years before applying for a visa to work in the U.S. This delay hurts communities in every state across the country that feel the impact of the doctor shortage. Since 1994, the Conrad State 30 program has waived the home return requirement for doctors willing to work in a medically underserved area for three years. Every state in the country has utilized this program, and many regularly reach the cap of 30 slots.

We have introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 2895/S.948) to reauthorize and strengthen the Conrad State 30 program. However, because the program lapses at the end of 2019, we urge you to include a short-term reauthorization of Conrad State 30 through at least Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. Congress has regularly included short-term extensions of this vital public health program in continuing resolutions and appropriations legislation in the past, and we respectfully request you follow past precedent and include such a short-term extension as you put together the FY20 appropriations legislation.

Communities around the country rely on the vital Conrad State 30 program to fill gaps in their public health infrastructure. We urge you to include a short-term extension of the program as you work on end-of-year appropriations legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,




Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
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